

# **INDIANA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANT PROGRAM**

## **2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

Pursuant to IC 13-20-20-12

February 2001

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management provides financial assistance to solid waste management districts and communities to assist in dealing with household hazardous waste issues. Grants have helped fund projects such as the establishment of household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facilities; regional collection programs, and educational projects to reduce usage of hazardous household products and promote non-toxic alternatives and proper disposal.

In calendar year 2000, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management awarded **\$547,427** from the hazardous waste response trust fund to projects. Grant funds were matched dollar-for-dollar by local money and in-kind contributions of **\$848,757**.

### **Funding Highlights**

#### **Technical support for statewide HHW services**

Regional cooperative grant provides technical support for household hazardous waste collection and disposal programs statewide.

#### **Support for the establishment of three HHW facilities**

Grant provides financial assistance for the establishment of facilities to serve 186,000 residents.

#### **Financial assistance for HHW services**

Thirty-eight solid waste management districts serving 60 counties received funding to support household hazardous waste collection and disposal efforts.

### **STATE HHW ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Household hazardous waste services across the state continue to expand since the inception of the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program in 1994. Cooperative, regional projects have achieved successes and are enabling solid waste management districts to provide services to areas that would not otherwise be served. One cooperative effort that began in 1998 continues to achieve remarkable success.

The Mercury Awareness Program (MAP) started taking shape early in January 1998 through a partnership with the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, and other solid waste management districts across the state. The program began with three goals: 1) the creation of a statewide MAP partnership; 2) mercury collection in every county; and, 2) increased public awareness of the importance of proper disposal. Mercury is a widely used toxic element. Human exposure can cause irreversible damage to the central nervous system, resulting in loss of sight, hearing and motor skills. Mercury bio-accumulates and persists in the food chain, especially in fish. Even extremely small quantities of mercury pose a risk to the food chain.

In 2000, media attention regarding a number of school mercury spills focussed attention upon the health and environmental dangers of mercury. Five state grants supporting the recycling of mercury were extended for an additional two years, and a new Mercury HUB grant was approved to serve southern Indiana . MAP activities included funding renewal for the MAP coordinator, mercury collections in participating counties, mercury fever thermometer exchanges and the school mercury pledge program.

**MAP coordinator:** A grant provided two-years of continued funding for the MAP coordinator. The MAP coordinator provides technical assistance and coordination for statewide mercury collection and recycling activities. Coordinator outreach activities included presentations to newborn parents groups sponsored by Bloomington Hospital; production and distribution mercury awareness poster and fishing license holders to all fishing license points of purchase throughout the state; support for IDEM's hospital pledge program, and; a presentation to the Johnson County Kiwanas club.

**Mercury collections:** IDEM, members of the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, and other solid waste management districts continued their mercury collection and awareness activities. In the year 2000, over 2300 pounds of mercury and mercury-containing devices were collected for recycling.

**Mercury thermometer exchanges:** IDEM, Cinergy, Eli Lilly and Company, the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, and the City of Indianapolis sponsored 13 mercury thermometer exchanges in the year 2000. Participants who brought in a mercury fever thermometer received a mercury-free electronic thermometer in exchange. 2087 fever thermometers were collected at the 13 exchanges. The exchanges helped raise awareness of mercury's dangers among the public.

**School mercury pledge program:** The program asks schools to pledge to continue working with solid waste management districts, IDEM, and the Household Hazardous Waste Task Force to keep mercury out of their school and environment in order to protect the quality of children's health and Indiana's air, land, and water. Twenty-four Indiana schools have committed to participate in the program to-date.

Schools establish goals to minimize the impact of mercury on the environment and encourage

students and their parents to conduct sound environmental practices as well. To achieve these goals, the school pledges to participate in the Mercury Awareness Program. As a participant in this program the school will:

- 1) Inventory buildings for mercury containing items
- 2) Purchase non mercury-containing substitutes where possible\*
- 3) Implement a phase-out plan for mercury containing devices\*
- 4) Turn in mercury and mercury containing items for recycling

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

IC 13-20-20-1 states that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management shall provide financial assistance to units and districts through matching grants awarded under this chapter for projects involving the collection, recycling, or disposal of household hazardous waste and conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste. The objectives of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program are the following:

- 1) To provide financial support for the establishment of permanent Household Hazardous Waste/Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator services throughout Indiana which are available to all residents or exempt small generators in the areas served.
- 2) To support the safe and environmentally sound disposal or recycling of HHW and CESQG waste.
- 3) To educate the public and exempt small generators in source reduction and pollution prevention, and the safe management and proper disposal or recycling of HHW and CESQG waste.

Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program disposal assistance funding provides financial assistance to support the disposal of household hazardous waste through a licensed hazardous waste service. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management will provide disposal assistance to:

- 1) Support new HHW programs or services
- 2) Support programs or services in need of financial assistance in order to continue services

The program provides matching grants for HHW/CESQG reduction, collection, proper disposal, and education/promotion programs, including:

- ◆ education programs to reduce the quantity of HHW/CESQG waste generated by informing the public of less hazardous and/or nontoxic substitutes for typical household hazardous products;
- ◆ reuse and product exchanges to reduce the quantity of HHW being disposed; and,
- ◆ establishment of permanent facilities for the proper handling, storage, and disposal of HHW/CESQG waste.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Solid waste management districts, counties, municipalities and townships are eligible to apply for funding from the Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program. Joint applications between two or more units of government are encouraged. Businesses, commercial operations, non-profit organizations and programs that manage farm operations are not eligible for funding.

## **MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Household Hazardous Waste/CESQG grant funds may be used to start-up or provide on-going support for existing programs. Each application must include plans for effective public education and promotion. IDEM considers that the most effective way to support the establishment of permanent Household Hazardous Waste or Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator services is to encourage the development of local sustainable programs by limiting grant eligibility to permanent collection programs. HHW grant funds *may not* be used for one-day collection events (known as "tox-away days"). Permanent HHW collection programs must include the following elements:

- 1) the ability to accept HHW from the public upon request;
- 2) service is advertised as with regularly scheduled hours and has an education component, and;
- 3) demonstrates cost efficiencies through local management and operation of collection.

## **2000 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANTS**

In 2000, the Department of Environmental Management accepted HHW grant applications on a bi-annual schedule. Grant applications were reviewed by a committee, consisting of representatives from the private sector, solid waste management districts, associations, not-for-profits and IDEM staff. Following the competitive review process, grants were awarded to three projects.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District**

**\$186,000**

Southeastern was awarded funding on behalf of the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force. The grant provides funding assistance for household hazardous waste disposal to 37 solid waste management districts, serving 60 counties. It also funds a project director position to provide coordination of the MAP, and technical assistance to solid waste management districts and communities regarding household hazardous waste and conditionally exempt small quantity generator program development and management. A participant match of \$186,000 is pledged.

#### **Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District**

**\$147,787**

Southeastern was awarded funding on behalf of the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force. The grant provides funding assistance for household hazardous waste disposal and battery recycling to 37 solid waste management districts, serving 60 counties. It also funds the development household hazardous waste and battery educational materials. A participant match of \$317,482 is pledged.

**Howard County Solid Waste Management District** **\$50,865**

Howard will establish a permanent household hazardous waste facility to be located on a brown field site. The facility will provide collection and disposal services to Howard county residents. The district will provide educational and promotional materials to educate the public regarding the proper disposal of HHW and the availability of the program. Grant funds support the establishment of the facility and public education expenses. A participant match of \$123,760 is pledged.

**Adams County Solid Waste Management District** **\$24,051**

Adams received funding to establish a permanent household hazardous waste facility. The facility will provide collection and disposal services to Adams county residents. The district will provide educational and promotional materials to educate the public regarding the proper disposal of HHW and the availability of the program. Grant funds support the establishment of the facility and public education expenses. A participant match of \$33,171 is pledged.

**Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District** **\$23,490**

Kosciusko received funding to establish a permanent household hazardous waste facility. The facility will provide collection and disposal services to Kosciusko county residents. The district will provide educational and promotional materials to educate the public regarding the proper disposal of HHW and the availability of the program. Grant funds support the establishment of the facility and public education expenses. A participant match of \$58,110 is pledged.

**Monroe Solid Waste Management District** **\$55,000**

Monroe received funding for ongoing support its successful household hazardous waste collection and disposal program. The district's household hazardous waste facility provides collection and disposal services to Monroe county residents. A participant match of \$55,000 is pledged.

**Wildcat Creek Solid Waste District** **\$55,000**

Wildcat Creek received funding for ongoing support its successful household hazardous waste collection and disposal program. The district's household hazardous waste facility provides collection and disposal services to Tippecanoe and Clinton county residents. A participant match of \$27,500 is pledged.

**Monroe Solid Waste Management District** **\$47,734**

Monroe was awarded funding on behalf participating solid waste management districts. The grant provides funding assistance for household hazardous waste disposal to 30 solid waste management districts, serving 50 counties. A participant match of \$47,734 is pledged.

## **2001 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

The HHW grant program's goal is to reduce the improper disposal of household hazardous waste that damages infrastructure harms individuals and contaminates our water. Our objective is to develop a statewide infrastructure and ensure residents are educated on this important issue.

The household hazardous waste grants awarded in 2000 provided financial and technical support for household hazardous waste programs across the state. The end result is residents have access to proper disposal alternatives and to reuse and recycling options for the hazardous waste they generate. However, many of the funded projects have a limited scope. Please refer to the project descriptions on page four. In addition, many areas of the state do not have or have only limited household hazardous waste collection services (see attached map). It is the intent of the Department of Environmental Management to assist these areas with education and collection through current and future funding rounds of the Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program.

In 2001, up to \$450,000 in funding will be available for household hazardous waste grants. The Department of Environmental Management anticipates that all appropriations for the Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program will be awarded. IDEM, with input from external partners, will:

- support the development of CESQG program options for educational and select disposal services for small businesses and other exempt small generators;
- continue to support the implementation and development of permanent household hazardous waste services, and;
- continue to support the development of new and ongoing regional household hazardous waste programs.